ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Introduction

LifeWise Academy utilizes the basic structure and focus of the The Gospel Project curriculum. This curriculum, originally produced for Sunday school and small group applications, has been licensed by LifeWise and reformatted to suit the needs of a released time program. The LifeWise curriculum is designed to take students through the entire Bible, beginning in Genesis and ending in Revelation.

Foundational Curriculum

Where other programs tell students Bible stories, The Gospel Project curriculum focuses on "God's plan to rescue His people from sin through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ." We draw from and build on the lessons and activities provided by The Gospel Project. Tied to each lesson is a specific character trait that, as we are changed by the gospel, becomes more evident in our lives.

The LifeWise Threefold Focus

Each LifeWise lesson presents one Bible passage and links to the gospel and the students' character with an intentional focus on three areas:

- **Head:** We focus first on simply knowing what the Bible says, what happened in the story and what we learn about God, ourselves or the world through each passage.
- **Heart:** We examine how the Bible story ties into and points to the big picture of the gospel. We consider our failures, sinfulness and need of a savior, as well as Jesus' victory in accomplishing what we could not achieve for ourselves.
- **Hands:** We explore ways students can live out the changed character that the gospel produces. More than sending the students out to merely "try harder to be good," we show how, as the gospel transforms our hearts, Jesus changes our desires, actions and character to be more like His.

Using the Elementary Curriculum

Each LifeWise lesson includes multiple components and activities. This allows each teacher to pick and choose what works best for their classroom. Teachers have the freedom to design a lesson plan and schedule that works best for their students, environment and time constraints. Some programs will need two classes to get through one lesson. Other programs will be able to get through one lesson per class and have extra time. Programs with extra time have the leeway to split large lessons in half to fill the extra class sessions or add extra review days.

Special Lessons (SL 1-7)

Seven "Special Lessons" (SL 1-7) are available in addition to the five years of curriculum we provide. There are three Christmas, two Easter, an introduction to the Bible and a review lesson for teachers to use at any time appropriate for their lesson schedule.

Essential Components of the Lesson

Since teachers will not be able to fit every component into one lesson, **the essential components should**

be the goal of every lesson, regardless of time.

1. **Bible Lesson (Head):** Delivery can vary in method from lesson to lesson
2. **Jesus Connection (Heart):** Connect the story to the big picture of the gospel: Jesus
3. **Character Connection (Hands):** Explain, discuss and apply the character quality to students' lives

All Components of the Lesson

- **Leader Bible Study:** A summary of the Bible story with additional background information to help teachers dive deeper into the Bible Story. Located at the beginning of the lesson, the Leader Bible Study prepares teachers for the lesson and possible questions from students.
- **Bible Timeline and Review:** A Bible story review section to aid student recall on previous lessons
- **Session Starters:** Start-up activities that focus the student and introduce the Bible story
- **Key Passage and Activity:** A memory verse that is repeated in the following 3-6 lessons. Each subsequent lesson, a new activity is provided to help kids engage with the verse in a fun way.
- **Big Picture Q&A:** A theological concept that is repeated through the following 3-6 lessons to help the students better understand God
- **Bible Story:** A script to share the Bible Story, with bolded words to retell and act out the story
- **Jesus Connection:** A script to connect the story to Jesus and our need for Him as our Savior
- **LWQ and Character Connection:** Application of the character quality in the Bible story and students' lives
- **Bible Story Review:** Bible story review questions
- **Reinforcement Activities:** Fun activities to reinforce the Bible Story, Jesus Connection or Character Connection
- **Activity Pages:** A worksheet with an activity and coloring page for younger students and an activity page and journal page for older students
- **Printables:** In-class activity materials
- **Recap Cards:** Mini laminated cards that show each Bible Story picture, Big Picture Q&A, Jesus Connection, Key Passage and LifeWise Quality
- **Prayer:** A short prayer script

Teacher Tools

- **LifeWise Character Quality posters:** Colorful illustrations of the Bible stories with the character qualities and definitions. These visual aids help preview, review and teach the stories and character qualities.
- **Key Passage and Big Picture posters:** The lesson memory verses and Big Picture Q&A's that visually aid in student learning and recall
- **Bible Story Videos:** Simple, engaging videos that show and tell the Bible Story and the Jesus Connection
- **Bible Timeline:** A visual aid to show how each Bible Story connects as part of the Bible's one big story, all pointing to Jesus